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FY2013

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Library Commissioners

Legislative Agenda



34 MILLION IN-PERSON VISITS, 58 MILLION ITEMS BORROWED
WHO NEEDS LIBRARIES?



WE ALL DO!

More people visit their local library each year than attend entire seasons of the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins, and Red Sox games combined. Entrepreneurs, students, job seekers, the homeless, the affluent, new Americans, children, young adults, adults and seniors, literate and illiterate, all find a path to success at the library.

Restore funding for library services for a

- **Making better librarians and libraries: continuing education, statewide delivery, and access from anywhere**

State Aid to Regional Libraries and the Library for the Commonwealth (Account 7000-9401) Massachusetts Library System's (MLS) continuing education classes are offered online and in convenient locations throughout the state, cutting down on the amount of time staff is out of the library and reducing travel costs. MLS also provides statewide delivery of items patrons request through the automated networks.

The Boston Public Library (BPL) as the Library for the Commonwealth (LFC) provides residents with a Boston Public Library card for unrestricted borrowing privileges. Residents also have instant access to online services with a BPL e-Card including a broad selection of electronic databases, e-books, downloadable audio books and music, and a wealth of digital images. Usage of BPL by residents outside of Boston in FY2011: 791,000 items borrowed; 157,000 library cards issued; 600,000 visits.

Restoring funding \$10,998,221 (increase of \$1,866,746) sustains delivery and increases MLS staff which is charged with meeting educational needs formerly met by six regions. Restoring funding to the LFC will help BPL expand and maintain a statewide digital library and extend digitization services to libraries statewide substantially increasing patron access.

Current funding is below FY1990 levels

Delivery:

1990 – 363,000 items

2011 – 14.3 million items

- **Statewide reach: small staff, big impact**

Board of Library Commissioners (Account 7000-9101) Funding to support the MBLC staff makes up 4% of the total MBLC state budget; yet staff provides resources, training, programming, and support that impact residents and libraries across the state.

Restoring funding \$1,100,000 (increase of \$185,552) reinstates the public library construction specialist position at the MBLC, and funds basic operational costs such as space rental, supplies and postage.

Current funding is below FY1997 levels

Patron activity per year:

1997 – 19 million visits

2010 – 34 million visits

- **Access: more than 37 million items available at the click of a mouse**

State Aid to Public Libraries (Account 7000-9501) Libraries in the MBLC's State Aid to Public Libraries Program work together to give patrons access to millions of items beyond what their local library is able to offer. Libraries also use state aid funding to meet other local needs such as buying computers or keeping the library open.

Restoring funding \$9,989,844 (increase of \$3,166,187) aids local municipalities which, even as state and federal funding to libraries declined, maintained local funding to support their libraries.

Current funding is below FY1994 levels

Resident borrowing from other libraries:

1994 – 6.3 million items

2010 – 11.4 million items

- **Technology: it's what happens behind the scenes that makes all the difference**

Library Technology and Resource Sharing (Account 7000-9506) While libraries provide residents with access to current technology such as Wifi, digital resources, e-books and Internet access, the automated networks are "behind the scenes" making these services, Interlibrary Loan, and other automated services available and affordable for libraries. Technology evolves fast and years of under-funding have left automated networks struggling to bring libraries into the next critical technological phase.

Restoring funding to \$3,780,000 (increase of \$1,850,762) ensures that as technology moves forward, no resident is left behind and reduces the local library's cost of providing these services.

Current funding is below FY1998 levels

Daily Internet usage:

2000 – 6,299 sessions*

2010 – 22,977 sessions

*2000 is the first year this data was collected

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Item Number & Item Name								Governor's 9C Reductions Jan., 2009	Governor's Signed with 9C Reductions Oct., 2009			Governor's Budget House 2 January 25, 2012
7000-9101 Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,229,472	\$1,180,527	\$965,935	\$891,182	\$985,720	\$1,000,732	\$1,028,000	\$1,042,269	\$938,042	\$914,448	\$914,448	\$1,028,312
7000-9401 State Aid to Regional Libraries	\$16,930,454	\$17,623,954	\$14,980,361	\$14,980,361	\$15,230,361	\$15,730,361	\$16,616,071	\$17,166,071 *	\$12,327,160 *	\$8,781,475 *	\$9,131,475 *	\$9,131,475 *
7000-9403 Library of Last Recourse										\$350,000		
7000-9402 Talking Book Library	\$342,550	\$318,777	\$297,126	\$318,777	\$325,000	\$390,000	\$415,000	\$421,143	\$421,143	\$421,143	\$421,143	\$421,143
7000-9406 Talking Book & Machine Lending	\$1,750,000	\$1,628,550	\$1,517,940	\$1,628,550	\$1,978,550	\$2,182,175	\$2,203,997	\$2,241,016	\$2,241,016	\$2,241,016	\$2,241,016	\$2,241,016
7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,949,804	\$9,212,758	\$7,830,844	\$7,339,844	\$9,039,844	\$9,289,844	\$9,489,844 **	\$9,989,844 **	\$6,823,657 **	\$6,823,657 **	\$6,823,657	\$6,823,657
7000-9506 Library Technology & Resource Sharing	\$4,420,235	\$3,838,471	\$341,811	\$341,811	\$2,000,000	\$2,833,000	\$2,851,000	\$2,799,104	\$1,929,238	\$1,929,238	\$1,929,238	\$1,929,238
7000-9507 Public Library Incentive Grant Program						\$250,000	\$250,000					
TOTAL	\$34,622,515	\$33,803,037	\$25,934,017	\$25,500,525	\$29,559,475	\$31,676,112	\$32,853,912	\$33,659,447	\$24,680,256	\$21,460,977	\$21,460,977	\$21,574,841

*Library of Last Recourse Funding: FY09-\$7,069,202 (\$1.15 per capita); FY10-\$2,564,587 (0.417 per capita); FY11-\$1,860,482(\$0.30 per capita); FY12 supplemental provided \$350,000 to Library of Last Recourse in line 7000-9403. The FY 12 & FY 13 House 2 Budget adds the amount in FY11 7000-9403 into line 7000-9401 and funds Library of Commonwealth at \$0.359 for every resident of the Commonwealth.

**Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR): FY 08 and FY09 authorized MBLC to award 55 waivers in excess of the statutory 10 waivers; FY10, FY11, and FY 12 & FY 13 House 2 budgets authorize MBLC to award waivers "in excess of the waiver limit set" in statute (no limit).

Residents – Funding Request for FY2013

- **Reading never sounded so good:
library services for the blind and disabled**

Talking Book Library at the Worcester Public Library

(Account 7000 – 9402). The Talking Book Library (TBL) specializes in large print materials and connects patrons to the National Library Service's digital talking books and magazines through the Braille and Audio Reading (BARD) program.

Funding request: \$454,834 (increase of \$33,691)

Perkins Braille talking Book Library (BTBL) at the Perkins School for the Blind (Account 7000 – 9406). Programs and services at the BTBL are nationally recognized for excellence. Staff continually works with patrons to make the latest technology and services available as well as providing ongoing services such as *Newsline* which allows users to listen to over 300 newspapers.

Funding request: \$2,421,016 (increase of \$180,000)

With increased funding in FY2013, both libraries will expand outreach to the more than 100,000 residents who are eligible for services. At Worcester, the library will work closely with social service agencies and public libraries to raise awareness about services. At Perkins, expanded outreach will include the ongoing effort to help patrons learn how the latest technologies are making improved services possible.

“ Staying informed on current events and major public policy issues is key to my government and community relations job at MIT. Without *Newsline*, I would have to depend completely on colleagues and friends to read me articles and editorial pieces. With *Newsline*, I can independently choose from all the major national and regional newspapers for my required daily dose of news and opinion. With a phone in my hand, I am king of my own information stream.”

– Paul Parravano, Co-Director of
Government and Community Relations,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The MBLC's Public Library Construction Program

During the past decade, in-person visits to our public libraries have increased by 50%.

Many public libraries, some built over 100 years ago, struggle to meet the growing demand for library services and lack handicap accessibility. Woburn Public Library, pictured here, is currently on the waiting list for funding. The children's room is located in the cramped basement, so the library holds children's events on the main floor leaving no room for teens and adults to use computers or quiet study areas.

Libraries currently on the Construction

Program waiting list: Athol, Reading, Belmont, Edgartown, Salisbury, Framingham, Scituate, Shrewsbury, Acushnet, Webster, Sandwich, Woburn, Eastham, Hopkinton, Boston

FY2013 Capital Request: Seeking a new \$150 million bond authorization



**Massachusetts Board of
Library Commissioners**

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Patrons Love ILL!

Barry is one of the hundreds of thousands Massachusetts residents who use **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** to get items that their local library doesn't carry. Residents consistently rank ILL as one of the top three most valued library services.

A typical resident's ILL experience: When a resident goes online on a Tuesday, requests a book from another library, and receives an email on Thursday telling him the item is waiting for him

at his local library, he's happy and that's just the way the library community wants it. It doesn't matter to him that the automated networks provide the technology for the virtual statewide catalog (which he used to make the request) or that the Massachusetts Library System delivers it for less than the cost of the postage stamp, or the fact that his library is certified in the State Aid to Public Libraries program which provides the basis for this kind of borrowing. Residents have simply come to expect this kind of service from libraries. Through the MBLC and the library community's collaborative, innovative environment, excellent service is possible in an efficient, cost effective way.

Although demand for ILL has quadrupled in the past decade, ILL funding is less than half what it was in 2001.

Accounts: 9506, 9401, 9501



“I'm an avid reader and I can get books and resources from the entire system—the entire state. You can't beat it—especially for the price.”

— Barry

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